

The American Observer

A free, virtuous, and enlightened people must know well the great principles and causes on which their happiness depends. -- James Monroe

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JULY 27, 1942

Demands For Second Front Are Mounting

Worsening Situation in Russia Makes Greater Aid from U.S. and Britain Essential

A GIGANTIC UNDERTAKING

Landing of Forces on Continent Would Be One of the Most Difficult of Military Operations

As the Germans relentlessly continue their campaign in Russia, the pleas and demands for the creation of a second front in Europe are intensified. In England and the United States, voices cry out for action, insist on immediate invasion of some part of Europe in order to divert German strength from Russia. Certain extremists go so far as to say that if the British and Americans let the Russians down in their present hour of crisis, they will deserve whatever fate befalls them in the event of a Soviet defeat.

It is natural and understandable that the recent German successes in Russia have brought taut nerves and explosive emotions to the peoples of the United Nations. But there is one fact that the excitable critics seem to forget; namely, that President Roosevelt and Prime Minister Churchill feel as deeply about what is happening in Russia as do their bitterest critics. Furthermore, no two men are more aggressive in character; more desirous of bold, challenging, imaginative action. No two men foresaw the terrible threat of Nazi aggression more clearly than they did.

We Will If We Can

If, therefore, the time were ripe for invasion—if the obstacles were not too overwhelming, these two men would undoubtedly be among the first to support the idea and to push plans at once for its realization. The same thing may be said of the majority of key military leaders in England and the United States. Some of these men, it is true, are still unduly cautious and cannot adapt their thinking to the new type of warfare which has developed out of this conflict. Most of the top-notch generals and admirals who are now in charge of policymaking, however, can be counted upon to take the offensive when there is a reasonable chance of success.

What, then, is holding back the attack? If we are not prepared to invade Europe, why aren't we? What are the chief stumbling blocks that must be overcome before action of this kind can be taken?

The average citizen, of course, is not in any position to know or find all the answers to these questions. Certain information is available, though, and it is possible to see the tremendous obstacles in the way.

For one thing, England does not begin to have enough barges to trans-

(Concluded on page 7)



FITZPATRICK IN ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH
The zero hour approaches

Need for Straight Thinking

By Walter E. Myer

From the newspaper reading I have done in the last week or so, I have selected two examples of reporting which show how we need to be constantly on our guard if we are not to be led away from the paths of straight thinking. One of these was a news story on the death of George Sutherland, former justice of the United States Supreme Court. The headline read: "Sutherland, Staunch Defender of the Constitution, Dies." Now there is no question of Mr. Sutherland's fidelity to the Constitution. He devoted many years of his career to the study of that great document in order that he might interpret it wisely and judicially. That he was an able authority on that subject, no one, not even his opponents, will deny. But the whole implication of the headline which I have quoted, as well as the story which accompanied it, is that Mr. Sutherland, because he interpreted the Constitution in a strict and conservative manner, was a *defender* of that document, whereas his opponents, who insist upon a broad interpretation, are *destroyers* or *enemies* of the Constitution.

The fact is, of course, that there is much room for genuine controversy over the intended meaning of many phrases of the Constitution. That is why we have a Supreme Court. That is why we have justices and permit the decision which is agreed upon by a majority of them to be binding. If there were complete and universal agreement on all points in the Constitution, we would not need courts or judges. Hence, the implication that one who interprets this document one way is defending it, whereas one who interprets it another way is tearing it down, is false and misleading. Incidentally, however, this is a technique which is frequently used—sometimes intentionally, sometimes without motive.

Another paper I have before me refers to Prime Minister Churchill and the present military leaders in England as supporters of defensive warfare as opposed to Hitler's brand of offensive tactics. The inspiration for this statement, naturally, is the failure up to now on the part of England and the United States to risk an invasion of Europe. To assume that Churchill and England's military leaders, as well as our own, are advocates of defensive warfare merely because they have not yet felt that they were prepared to take the offensive in Europe is sophistry of the lowest order. These men, particularly Churchill, believe as strongly in offensive fighting as their loudest critics.

These are only two examples, picked at random, of faulty or crooked presentation of the news. The average citizen must be constantly on guard in his daily reading. By devoting thought to what he reads, rather than accepting it all at face value, the citizen may see through many of the devices which are used to influence his thinking.

Nation Is Confronted By Inflation Crisis

Demand for Wage Stabilization Follows Labor Board's Ruling in Steel Case

FARM PRICES ALSO ISSUE

President May Seek More Rigid Controls to Keep Cost of Living from Soaring Higher

While the American people last week were deeply concerned over the unfavorable news from the Russian front, they were scarcely less anxious about the inflation crisis confronting them at home. Dire warnings were uttered on all sides that unless more effective methods were adopted ruinous inflation would soon confront the nation and threaten the entire war production program. The War Labor Board was sharply criticized for granting a 44-cents-a-day pay raise to the workers in "Little Steel," the principal steel companies other than the giant United States Steel Corporation. It was feared that this action would lead to wage increases all along the line, thus adding to the pressure of inflation.

There were reports last week that President Roosevelt was preparing a message to Congress to ask for further curbs on the inflation trend. It was reported that he might request legislation fixing wages as prices of most goods and services have been fixed in order to prevent further increases in the cost of living. There was also the possibility that the President would ask Congress to include farm products in the price-fixing structure, since farm products enjoy special privileges.

Wage Increases

The War Labor Board, in the "Little Steel" case, did not grant all the demands of the United Steel Workers of America, the union which represents the steel workers of the nation. The union had demanded a \$1 increase whereas the board granted only 44 cents a day. But it was not so much the amount of the increase that stirred criticism as the fact that the workers' demands had been partially met. It was feared that the board would start demands in other industries. Already there are signs that wage increases will be demanded throughout the rest of the steel industries as well as in the automobile and aircraft industries.

Nor is that all. The War Labor Board set forth a policy with respect to wage increases which has met with bitter criticism. The basis upon which it arrived at the 44-cent figure was the increase in the cost of living since January 1, 1941. Since the cost of living increased 15 per cent since that time, the board reasoned that the workers were entitled to a 15 per cent increase in wages. If such a policy is followed throughout industry, all workers whose wages have not increased 15 per cent since January 1, (Concluded on page 6)



CO-OP. This oil plant is owned by 100,000 members in four western states. Two-and-a-half million American families all over the country have joined the cooperative movement.

A Book in the News

Co-ops—The People's Business

THE old order is being swept away. Midst bomb burst, shellfire, and roar of cannon a new world is being born, a world in which the death-dealing struggle for survival must be supplanted by cooperation, or else!"

When Hitler opened the floodgates nearly three years ago, the cooperative idea was making headway in at least 40 countries of the world. Consumers cooperatives, housing societies, cooperative marketing associations, rural electric cooperatives, credit unions, and producers' cooperatives in many forms were gaining in size and importance. They are still progressing in countries which are not in the grips of the Axis.

The growth of the cooperative idea has been most spectacular in England and in the Scandinavian countries, but it has been remarkable in the United States, especially since 1929. Today, 2,500,000 American families—nearly one-tenth of our total population—belong to one type of cooperative or another. The cooperative movement in the United States has become big business and merits far more attention than it has received. Based upon principles of economic democracy, its supporters are convinced that it offers the solution to many of our problems after the war.

The People's Business by Joshua K. Bolles (New York: Harper, \$2) brings up to date the rather amazing story of how Americans are joining the cooperative movement in steadily increasing numbers. The author traveled from Ohio to Wisconsin and

down to Kansas, the region in which cooperatives have had their most impressive development, to gather material for his book. The story he has to tell will surprise those who have not followed the quiet growth of the co-ops.

In Columbus, Ohio, he visited an eight-story office building, with a sleek modern front, which is owned by cooperating farmers of the surrounding area. It is the headquarters of the Ohio Farm Bureau Cooperative Association, and it holds a complete department store, a life insurance society, and various other cooperative ventures, all owned by 60,000 members of 84 county co-op associations "which cover Ohio like the snows of winter cover Vermont." In Superior, Wisconsin, he saw the great Central Cooperative Wholesale with its own coffee roastery, printing plant, feed mills, and bakery, and which supplies goods to consumers cooperatives over a wide area. In Phillipsburg, Kansas, he inspected oil wells and a refinery owned by co-operating members; in many places he saw electric-power-producing cooperatives made possible by the Rural Electrification Administration.

Wherever he traveled he saw how American families are practicing the principles of cooperation. The general idea is simple. A group of people decide to provide themselves with goods or services rather than to depend on some privately owned business or corporation. They organize a cooperative society, provide capital by buying shares of stock, and set up their own business—a store, electric plant, or housing development. Profits are eliminated by this method and the savings are either returned to the members according to their purchases or are devoted to the expansion of the cooperative effort.

The organization of cooperatives is completely democratic. A member cannot have more than one vote in any decision. Problems and policies are argued out among members in open forum. Cooperatives, in truth as well as in theory, are "the people's business."

Whether or not the cooperative movement can, as it claims, solve our difficult underlying economic problems, the movement deserves more study and attention than it has had. *The People's Business* makes a good introduction to such a study.

The American Observer

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News From All Fronts

Direct war employment was keeping about 12,500,000 persons busy on July 1, according to War Manpower Chairman Paul McNutt. This compared with 9,000,000 on April 1 and 6,900,000 on January 1. "Under present schedules," Mr. McNutt stated recently, "five million more will be added to the war industry forces during the last six months of 1942."

* * *

Recruiting of enlisted members for the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps began last week at all regular Army recruiting stations. Most of the initial enlistments are to be made up of women with experience in specialized occupations. The first basic training course for women in the ranks will begin August 17 at Fort Des Moines, Iowa.

* * *

Congress recently passed a law which authorizes men and officers in our armed forces to accept decorations given them by governments of the nations with which we are allied.

* * *

War stamp greeting cards, approved by the Treasury and designed to stimulate the sale of stamps and bonds, went on sale a few days ago in retail stores throughout the United States. Each card contains spaces for 187 10-cent stamps—enough, when a nickel is added, to

buy a \$25 bond. A majority of the nation's 100 greeting card manufacturers worked together to produce the card which must contain at least one 10-cent stamp when mailed in order for the sender to complete the intention of the greeting.

* * *

The War Production Board has permitted the manufacture of 100,000 "victory" model bicycles between July 1 and August 31, and no other models may be made. Sometime before August 31 the board will consider whether to allow a limited manufacture of "bikes" after that time. In order to purchase a bicycle today, of course, one must prove that he is a war worker or that he comes under one of the several other classes of eligible buyers defined by government ruling.

* * *

China was reported a few days ago to be conscripting 6,000,000 new soldiers. This will swell her total of trained fighters to 26,000,000—the largest army the world has ever known. Among the 20,000,000 in China's armed forces today are 5,000,000 in active service as regular troops, 15,000,000 in reserve units or undergoing training, and another 800,000 are operating as guerillas in Japanese-occupied areas. With the increase, one out of every 16 persons in the nation will be serving—a ratio which, for the United States, would give us an army of about 8,250,000 men.

* * *

WPB's latest tally shows that the nation spent \$4,123,000,000 for the war effort during June. The board also reports that the total war financial program now adds up to about \$223,000,000,000. Of the \$34,765,000,000 which was spent for military purposes in the two years ending June 30, \$15,650,000,000 went for the Army, \$10,211,000,000 for the Navy, \$4,098,000,000 for lend-lease, and \$4,806,000,000 for other war agencies.

* * *

To turn out a large number of competent glider pilots in a short time, the Army Air Forces are using power planes for the four-week pre-glider training. The course emphasizes power-off "dead stick" landings. Men in the first classes soon will be graduated, and will take up advanced training at the controls of streamlined gliders—first in small trainers and then in troop-carrying gliders.

* * *

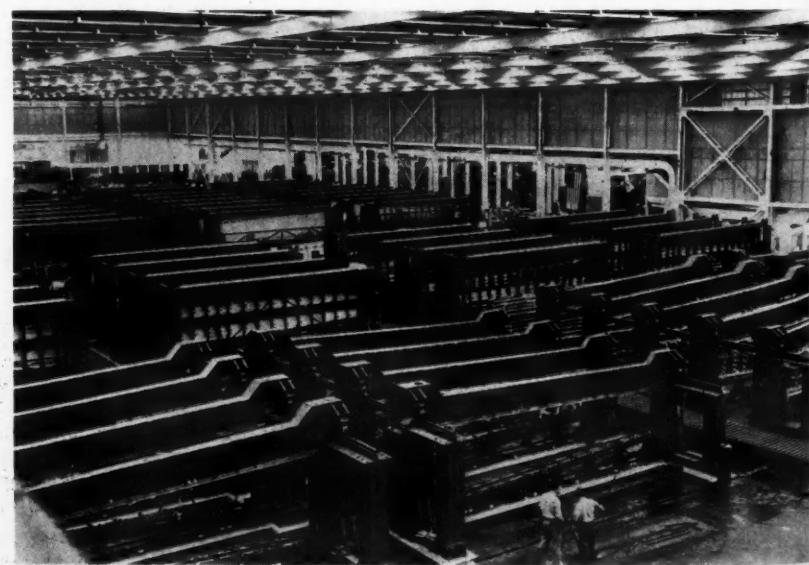
Finland and the United States have come just about as close to breaking diplomatic relations as they can without actually severing ties entirely. We have closed all our consular offices in Finland, and have asked the Finns to close theirs here.

* * *

President Roosevelt has formally proclaimed a state of war with Hungary, Rumania, and Bulgaria, thus making citizens of those countries who are residing in the United States subject to the regulations governing enemy aliens.

* * *

Train passengers are asked to limit their luggage to one bag wherever possible. The Office of Defense Transportation says that "the extra baggage carried into a car may well exclude some soldier from a seat."



A BOMBER AN HOUR. In these huge jigs at Ford's Willow Run plant near Detroit, outer wing sections for B-24 bombers are assembled. When in full production, Willow Run is scheduled to turn out a bomber an hour.

The British Can Fight

THERE is no line of propaganda on which Germany is more constantly at work than on the effort to divide Great Britain and the United States. Day in and day out Nazi broadcasters to Britain and the United States plant their lies—their "evil whispers"—hoping that these will be overheard and repeated, and knowing at least that they will serve as a cue for Axis agents in both allied countries.

In propaganda broadcasts to the United States the principal line is that Britain can't fight and that she plans to let the United States bear the greatest burdens of the war. Roosevelt is painted as the dupe of Churchill, as an unprincipled leader who is willing to send millions of American boys abroad to die for Britain.

In Britain, naturally, the line is different. The British are told that the United States aspires to world domination through a United Nations victory. Americans are depicted as slyly preparing to take over the British Empire after the war.

The purpose of the German campaign is, of course, clear. Any ill feeling which can be brought about

Dunkirk, and defeated the Nazi effort to reduce Britain to submission by bombing attacks? How many Americans today know that at one time during that heroic resistance the R. A. F.'s reserve was down to half a dozen planes?

To say that the British can't fight is to overlook the daring of R. A. F. pilots who daily sweep over the Channel and attack strongly fortified posts on the European coast. It is to overlook the brilliant raids which the Commandos make at every opportunity—each a small invasion of the continent in itself. Let those who have had similar experiences pass upon the valor of the British soldier.

It is not lack of courage or fighting ability among British soldiers which has led to defeat on the battle fronts. Britain's difficulties have been due partly to the fact that the war caught her woefully unprepared—in Europe and in the Far East—and partly to the unavoidable circumstance that alone she does not have the population and the strength of Nazi Germany. No people have ever kept on fighting under greater handicaps than the British.

How often do we stop to think of the sacrifices which the people of Britain have made and are making for this war? The average American, distant from the scene of war himself, has not yet realized what modern warfare means to civilian populations. He does not know the extent of the privations which have been brought upon the British people by the war. He does not often reflect that millions of men, women, and children in Britain have felt the full horrors of warfare. Many have been bombed out of their homes, many have lost their businesses and most of their possessions. Yet they remain as determined as ever, a clear indication of their will to fight.

In a recent broadcast to the United States, J. B. Priestley, noted British novelist, undertook to dispel some misconceptions about war conditions in Britain. He told very plainly how the average British citizen is affected by the war. The following paragraphs, taken from his speech, and dealing with food and the blackout, show how life in Britain has been changed by the war:

I have had just one small piece of steak, about three inches square, in the last twelve months. I have not had a single lamb or mutton chop. I do not think I have had even one square inch of fried ham. In normal times I eat plenty of fruit, but now of course there



COMMANDOS. British invasion troops make daring and spectacular raids upon the Nazi-held coast of Europe. Commandos have displayed courage and fighting ability of high order.

just isn't any fruit. Oranges go to our children. Cream vanished long ago. I have a sweet tooth but I do not suppose that I have a bit of dessert that seems to be anything like sweet enough, more than once every two or three weeks.

We aren't hungry and we are pretty healthy but, except on a few special occasions, dining is no longer much of a pleasure. All the best food, especially the best meat, goes to our men in the services, and of course nobody grumbles about that.

I was astonished to hear the other day from a man who had just returned from the United States that fifty per cent of the Americans he talked to did not realize that we here have a nightly blackout which really is a blackout. We've had an almost total blackout from dusk to dawn for thirty-four months, and most of us have forgotten what outdoor lights look like.

A nation which is willing to put up with such discomforts and hardships for an indefinite period of time cannot be accused of lacking the ability to resist. Britain has lost many battles in this war, her leaders have made serious mistakes, but it must never be forgotten that if it had not been for British resistance Germany would have won the war a long time ago.

It was the tough fiber of Britain which made her hang on doggedly, two years ago, when France had been defeated and she was left without an ally in the world. Britain's stout heart in those days prevented Germany from gaining control over the Atlantic and over Africa. It gave us precious time in which to prepare against a danger which was only beginning to shape itself before our eyes. If the British could not fight, they would not have held the ground in those dark days when all hope seemed lost.



WOMEN as well as men in Britain are mobilized behind the war effort.

between Britain and the United States will undermine the United Nations war effort. The Nazis know only too well that the English-speaking British and American peoples, acting and fighting together, are the keystone of the whole United Nations structure. If the bonds between them can be broken the world-wide organized resistance to the Axis will come crashing to the ground.

The propaganda campaign has not made much headway either in this country or in Britain, but it is the sad truth that some people have allowed themselves to be misled by it. Unconsciously they have become the purveyors of rumors and ill-founded reports which can usually be traced to Axis propaganda broadcasts—or which are picked up by the Axis and used in those broadcasts. They repeat things which are demonstrably untrue but which nevertheless influence the thoughts of those who do not happen to be informed.

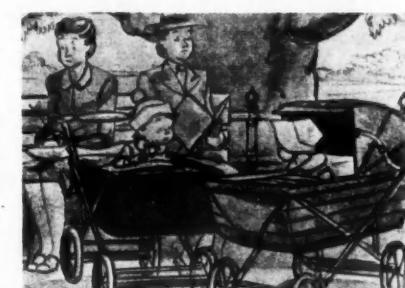
Human memory is short. People who, a year or more ago, were praising Britain to the skies for her valiant single-handed battle against the Germans, are among those who are today declaring that the British can't fight. Can anyone say this who remembers how the small R. A. F. battled against overwhelming German superiority in the air over Britain, in the days after



BLACKOUTS have been nightly affairs in Britain for nearly three years. This picture of London might have been taken any night since the war began.

Now that the Axis threat has revealed itself in all its evil design, the United States should be deeply conscious of the debt it owes to Britain. We may well wonder where we would be now if Britain had not fought, had not shown such a strong spirit of resistance. Those who remember this will be careful that their criticisms of Britain today are just and well founded. They will not let themselves become the easy tools of Axis propagandists.

• SMILES •



"Oh, I'm not worried. I'll be walking before my tires play out."

ROTH IN THIS WEEK

Willie: "What is a ham actor?"
Father: "A ham actor is one who hogs every scene."

The teacher was giving her class a test on natural history.

"Now, Bobby Jones," she said, "tell me where the elephant is found."

The boy hesitated for a moment. Then his face lit up. "The elephant," he said, "is such a large animal it is scarcely ever lost."

—LABOR

Cop: "As soon as I saw you come around the bend I said to myself, Forty-five at least."

Woman: "How dare you? It's this hat that makes me look so old."

—SELECTED

"What made you quit your job?"
"Well, the boss called me in last week and said he was going to fire me. Then he fired me a couple of times. The next day he had a fellow in my place, and—well, that was too much. I handed in my resignation."

—LABOR

"Young man," said the old lady to the grocery clerk, "how do you sell your limburger cheese?"

"Madam," replied the clerk, "I sometimes wonder about that myself."

—SANTA FE MAGAZINE

Son: "Pop, what is discretion?"
Pop: "It's something, son, that comes to a person after he's too old for it to do him any good."

—PANTHER

"Are you the man who saved my little boy from drowning when he fell off the dock?"

"Yes."
"Well, where is his cap?"

—SELECTED

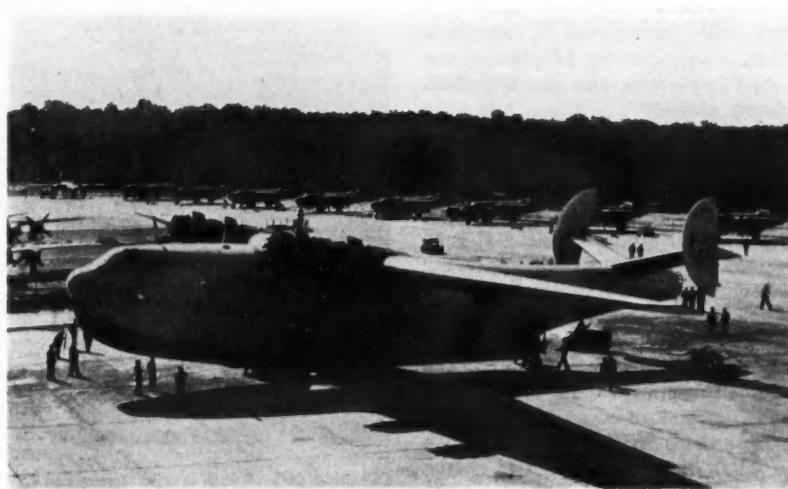
The Week at Home

"V" Homes

American homes will be enlisted in the war effort through a drive which was announced last week by the Office of Civilian Defense. In the near future, depending in each community on when the local defense authorities receive the necessary stickers, air-raid wardens will visit each home in the nation to check on the household's participation in various activities of the war program.

If the home has equipped at least one room so that it can be blacked out, if the family is practicing conservation of food and other necessities of life, if it is salvaging rubber, metals, and other materials needed for production, if the family is refusing to spread war rumors and is making regular purchases of bonds and stamps, the household will be designated as a "V Home." This entitles it to a certificate, designed as a sticker which may be posted in a window (see picture on this page). Business establishments will be enlisted in a somewhat similar campaign.

In the case of homes, inspection of the property for air-raid precautions will be made only with the consent



FLYING BOAT. The proposal that nine shipyards be set to work building flying boats of the Mars type has aroused much attention and comment. Above is a close-up view of the Mars when it was being completed.

in Russia, North Africa, and China is limited. Meanwhile, war goods pile up in warehouses and armies are held back for the lack of those weapons.

The way out of this dilemma, many authorities believe, is to carry more and more freight by air (AMERICAN OBSERVER, July 6). The Army Air Forces, of course, are already operating a world-wide freight system, with notable achievements to its credit, but the need is for a tremendous fleet of cargo planes. The airplane industry is building an unknown number, but probably not as many as could be used, since its factories have a considerable task in supplying the warplanes that are required.

Consequently, the nation was startled, but ready to listen to the breath-taking proposal of two ship-builders, last week, that they be given orders to build 5,000 flying boats of the Mars type (AO, July 13). The men were Henry Kaiser (AO, June 8) and Andrew Higgins, whose New Orleans shipyard, with an order for 200 cargo vessels, was closed down a few days ago for lack of raw materials.

Kaiser, sponsor of the plan, said that nine shipyards could, within three months from the start of work, provide 10 such planes a month, and by the end of the first year it would be 40 a month. Five thousand of the 70-ton craft could, he said, carry 500,000 fully equipped soldiers or 350,000 tons of material to Britain every other day. Already existing tools and equipment would be used to build the planes, which would move down "an assembly line ready-built by nature—the water along our present outfitting docks." The outcome of Kaiser's suggestion may not be known for some time, but his wizardry at building such unrelated things as dams and ships makes it certain that he will receive a respectful hearing on the subject of planes.



V-HOME certificates will be given by the OCD to families which have taken some air-raid precautions and which are participating in at least one practical war effort activity.

of the occupant, but he cannot qualify for the certificate unless the inspection is made. His own word is taken on the other points in the check-up—conservation, salvaging, refusal to spread rumors, and purchase of stamps and bonds.

Air Cargo Fleet

How to transport men and weapons to the fighting fronts in time to win battles and avert defeats is one of the gravest problems faced by the United Nations. By last week, in the Western Atlantic alone, Axis submarines had sunk nearly 400 merchant vessels since Pearl Harbor. The shipyards of the United States and Britain, while doing a good job, are so far losing the race against sinkings.

Not only is the growing shortage of merchant ships a severe handicap, but vessels which remain in service move too slowly for the demands of modern war. The number of round trips which they can make in a year between the production front in the United States and the battle fronts

Taxes Ahead

The story on new taxes will not be complete until the Senate acts, but the record-breaking measure approved, 392-2, by the House last week gives the nation's taxpayers a good idea of what is in store.

Chiefly through heavier levies on incomes of corporations and individuals, the measure calls for the government to collect more than \$6,270,000,000 in new taxes each year. Added to the taxes already in existence

under a new plan for perfecting them which was announced a few days ago by the War Production Board. A proposed "Office of Technical Development," with a fund of \$100,000,000, may be set up to do the work.

There is already a National Inventors' Council, which annually passes on thousands of suggestions and ideas for winning the war. Weeding out the "wild" schemes, the council refers the inventions with good possibilities chiefly to the Army and the Navy, which work with the inventors responsible toward improving and perfecting their devices for use.

Still another government branch in existence is the Office of Scientific Research and Development, which is concerned chiefly with originating and sponsoring research among established scientists and laboratories. The National Inventors' Council takes what comes to it from the population at large. But the Office of Scientific Research and Development spurs trained scientists and inventors on toward the solution of specific problems. Most of its endeavors result in the development of certain weapons or instruments of war sought by the armed forces or in discoveries of medical value.

The Office of Technical Development would round out this inventive front by clearing on ideas for production and transportation and by pushing the search for improvements in these fields. It would, for example, build "pilot" plants for the experimental production of substitute materials which seem to hold possibilities. It would build full-scale testing models of new types of trucks, cargo boats and planes, and factory machines. It would also search for simplified and standardized machine tools, trucks, and boats, in order that production could be speeded in the long run.

Right-Hand Men

Harry Hopkins, for many months, has been President Roosevelt's all-around assistant, trusted personal adviser, and envoy on special lend-lease missions. Hopkins' experience, however, does not equip him to give advice on military matters—to go over technical world strategies with the President and to summarize the flood of military reports which pours into the White House.

To provide this assistance and counsel, the President last week named 67-year-old Admiral William D. Leahy, who, since retiring from active naval service in 1939, has been governor of Puerto Rico and, until recently, American ambassador to Vichy, France.

The President described Admiral Leahy's new assignment as that of chief of staff to the commander-in-chief of the Army and the Navy. Because there is no modern precedent for this position, the extent of Admiral Leahy's authority is not entirely clear. From what the President said, however, the post is not one in which the admiral will have any sort of joint command over the armed forces. Nevertheless, it is apparent that through his advice and counsel to the President, Admiral Leahy will in fact wield a great deal of influence in the making of a wide variety of far-reaching military decisions.



RAY IN KANSAS CITY STAR
The grim awakening

The Week Abroad

Can Timoshenko Hold?

As the Germans continued their advance toward the Caucasus, last week, Marshal Semyon Timoshenko was preparing his forces to make a stand against the Nazi invaders. Where the great, and perhaps decisive battle will be fought, is not definitely known, but it will probably be along a line stretching from the suburbs of Rostov to some point in front of Stalingrad. The two cities, one by the Black Sea and the other near the Caspian, guard the best passage alongside the mountain barrier which stands before the Caucasus. If either or both cities are lost to the Germans the Caucasus will be gravely imperiled.

Last week the Russians were slowly giving ground before the Nazis in the regions approaching Rostov and Stalingrad. Soviet forces retreated in good order while making Nazi gains as costly as possible. The moment was drawing near, how-

by Marshal Rommel for the purpose of breaking through the British defenses in the El Alamein region was turned back. British Empire forces even made a few small gains.

The Battle of Egypt seemed to be developing into a new stalemate, with neither side having the strength to launch a powerful thrust against the other. Reinforcements had been brought up on both sides but they had not been enough. Further developments awaited the arrival of additional reinforcements.

Rommel appeared to be having greater difficulty in supplying his forces than the British. Enjoying air superiority, the British were able to make smashing air attacks against German supply columns and against ports of arrival. The U. S. Army Air Force has joined in these attacks. Rommel is crafty and resourceful, however, and may overcome his difficulties as he has done more than once in the past. One factor in his

break in the weather to bomb the Japanese, report that air and naval stations, as well as temporary housing facilities are being built on the islands of Kiska, Attu, and Agattu.

U. S. Bombers in China

For three consecutive days, last week, U. S. Army bombers carried out successful attacks against Japanese bases in China. Operating from the region of Chungking, Japanese ships on the Yangtze, and Japanese-held ports along the coast, were struck by small but damaging raids. There is confidence that these attacks will increase in size and that they will come frequently enough to complicate Japan's supply problem.

Meanwhile, China's armed resistance against Japan's effort to control central China is having greater success than was expected. Japan is having to fight hard for all her gains. There will be no quick victory in China.

Belgian Congo

Like France the week before, Belgium last week commemorated the anniversary of its national holiday. It was the 111th anniversary of Belgium's independence and the country once again found itself fighting for its independence.

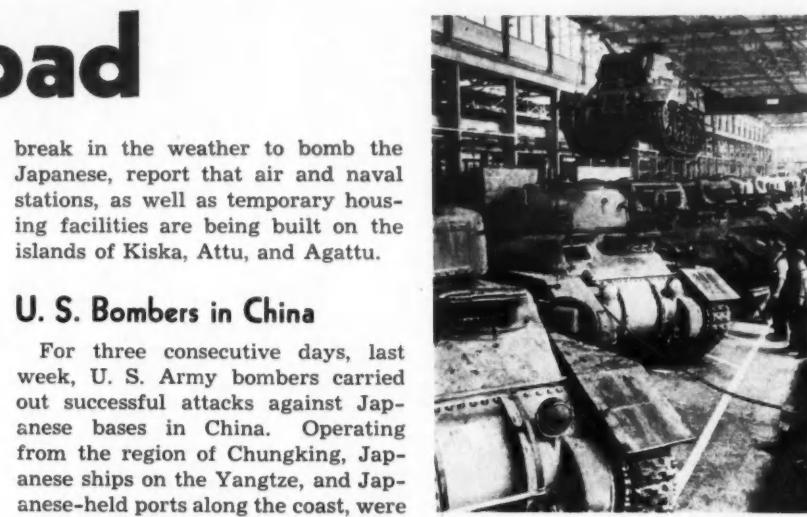
While there is little that the Belgians living in Europe can do to throw off the Hitler yoke, anyone who has visited their country in happier times realizes the burning hatred they must have for the German overlords. They are a freedom-loving people and have shown their contempt for the Nazis by engaging in as much sabotage as possible.

Belgium in Europe is out of the war for the time being, but the Belgian empire fights on with the United Nations. The Belgian Congo is 80 times the size of Belgium itself and its contribution to the war effort is not inconsiderable. Writing last week in the Washington *News*, William Philip Simms made this comment on the contribution of the Belgian Congo:

The Belgian Congo has a population of 15,000,000. All but some 30,000 are natives. But these natives—racially akin to the Negroes of the United States, many of whose ancestors came from that area—are splendid fighting



THE PEOPLE OF MALTA, most-bombed spot in the European theater of war, refuse to leave their island despite the enormous destruction. When they are bombed out of their homes, they build huts of stone and carry on.



CANADA is producing tanks on a large scale and by mass production methods similar to those employed by the United States. This is a view of Canada's largest tank factory which is turning out 10 34-ton tanks a day.

men. They fought with conspicuous gallantry in the First World War and they are doing the same in this.

Just how large a force there is in the Belgian Congo is a military secret. But it is not inconsiderable. A contingent marched clear across Central Africa, along the trail blazed by Livingstone and Stanley, to help the British chase the Italians out of Ethiopia.

Today, the Belgian Congo has dug in for the duration. It has prepared not only to hold its own soil but to help defend the rest of West Africa. Every German, Italian, or other Axisite has long since been interned. All Belgian shipping not destroyed or captured by the Germans at the outset of the conflict has been placed at the Allies' disposal. Also the Congo's raw materials, including rubber, vegetable oils, and so on. Practically the entire output of copper, edible palm oil, and diamonds goes to the United Kingdom. Incidentally, the Congo is the world's largest producer of industrial diamonds, vitally important to war industries.

Fighting Composer

What was probably the greatest ovation ever heard in Radio City's famed studio 8-H was given last week to Arturo Toscanini and the N.B.C. symphony orchestra after the playing of Dmitri Shostakovich's Seventh Symphony. More than just the music—remarkable enough—drove the audience to its demonstration. The fact that this work of Russia's leading composer was born in fire and dedicated to victory lent real drama to its first playing in this country.

The Seventh was composed in Leningrad last year while that city was undergoing terrific assault from the enemy. Shostakovich was a helmeted member of the very active home guard. Visions of the composer fighting incendiary bombs and watching the skies for German planes while the half-finished score of the Seventh lay on his desk fired the imagination of listeners. The finished score was microfilmed and flown to the United States.

Shostakovich is 36 years old. His father was an engineer, his mother a talented student at the St. Petersburg (now Leningrad) Conservatory of Music. At the age of 13 Dmitri entered the same school and began composing. His First Symphony, completed when he was 19, is still going strong. Aside from symphonies Shostakovich has written operas, ballets, chamber music, and minor compositions.

The composer is a dark, bespectacled man with a hawklike nose and small sensitive mouth. His manner, except when he gets excited over his favorite sport, soccer, is very mild. He lives with his family in Leningrad.



NEW WORLD COLORS. At simultaneous ceremonies held in leading cities of the Western Hemisphere this "New World Flag" was unfurled. Symbolizing the united front among 22 Western Hemisphere nations, including Canada, the flag combines the colors used in the banners of the countries represented. It has diagonal stripes of red, white, navy blue, light blue, and green. There is a yellow star for each nation.

ever, when Timoshenko would have to make a stand. That he would choose the most favorable ground for the battle was taken for granted. The struggle for Rostov and Stalingrad is likely to be one of the most bitterly contested in the entire war.

The Russians gave some indication of their reserve power farther north where the city of Voronezh rests on high ground overlooking the Don. Despite repeated German claims that they had taken Voronezh, the Russians apparently held on to the city, and even forced the Germans in several places to retreat across the Don. It was evident that the Russians have not lost the power to counterattack.

While the general picture on the southern Russian front was gloomy, last week, it was not regarded as hopeless by competent military observers. Much depends upon how costly the German gains have been made, and upon the reserves which both sides can throw into the engagement at the critical moment.

In Egypt

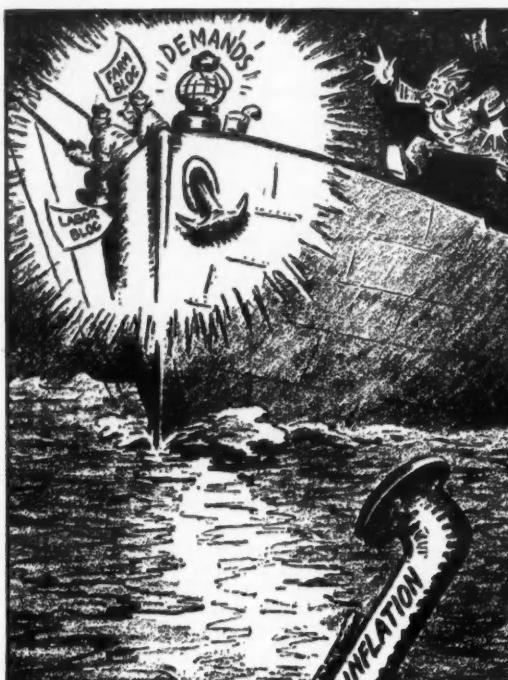
If things looked dark in Russia, last week, prospects for the United Nations in Egypt were definitely brighter. A determined push launched

Japan's Preparations

Japan was reported last week to have massed half of her armies in Manchukuo, and to be making final preparations for an attack against Russian Siberia. Whether Japan really plans to strike, or whether this armed demonstration is being made in order to help the Germans by preventing the withdrawal of Russian forces in the Far East, is a subject on which there is naturally no information.

In the face of the possibility that Japan will attack Russia, the continued Japanese occupation of the outer Aleutian Islands is disconcerting. Japan's grip on these islands may block any attempt on the part of the United States to move into Kamchatka and use bases on that peninsula for attacks against the Japanese.

In the battle for the Aleutians, the Japanese have suffered heavy damage, but their hold has not been shaken. U. S. Army and Navy flyers who have taken advantage of every



TALBURT IN WASHINGTON NEWS
Prelude to tragedy



SEIBEL IN RICHMOND TIMES-DISPATCH
This is "the Better 'Ole" Mr. President



FITZPATRICK IN ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH
"Wonder if he's coming our way?"

Nation Confronted by Inflation Crisis

(Concluded from page 1)

1941, will be entitled to a wage increase.

The board set forth other principles to govern wage rates throughout industry. If wage rates in a plant or industry are below the prevailing rates for similar work in that area, the rates are to be raised to the existing level, even though this means an increase of more than 15 per cent. Moreover, if workers are not earning enough to live in decency and health, their wages are to be raised by more than 15 per cent, if necessary.

What effect the War Labor Board's recent action will have upon wages in general is difficult to determine. All workers will certainly not receive a 15 per cent increase in wages. It is well known, for example, that most unions have already pushed wages up from eight to 12 per cent above the January 1941 level. In these cases, they can expect to obtain increases of no more than three to seven per cent. On the other hand, those workers whose wages have not increased may be expected to press for higher wages.

Illogical

Those who criticize the board's action contend that it is illogical to accept the principle that labor need make no sacrifices in time of war; that it is entitled to the same remuneration received in time of peace. They point out that the President himself, in his inflation message of three months ago, called upon all elements of the population to make sacrifices. At that time, he told the people: "You will have to forego higher wages for your particular job for the duration of the war." Now, it is charged, the War Labor Board has come along and adopted the principle of higher wages.

While the amount of money involved in the "Little Steel" case is not large (\$21,000,000 a year), if higher wages are granted all along the line, the inflationary effect will be considerable. It is pointed out that two-thirds of the total national income is made up of wages and salaries and thus constitutes a major influence upon inflation.

The employer representatives of the board justified the decision in the

"Little Steel" case by pointing out that it set forth a formula by which wage stabilization may result. "The wage formula," they said, "is one to which we can anchor and if adhered to (and we have assurances from the public members of the board that it will be adhered to), should set up a barrier to check wage demands. We are confident that while it may be thought we have fallen back beyond lines which were outlined in the April 27 message (by the President), we have reached a position where this board can dig in to more effectively face the drastic reduction in our standard of living, which to date most of us have no conception of. To that extent, we are slowing down the speed of wage increases to where a full stop is now in sight."

If the War Labor Board's policy has failed to please large sections of the public, it has similarly met with disfavor among workers themselves, but for a different reason. The labor members of the board refused to accept the decision. They contended that it would greatly weaken the position of unions because they would no longer be able to secure wage increases for their members.

Perhaps the greatest dissatisfaction among workers springs from other causes. Workers are not unwilling to make sacrifices for the war effort, they insist. Their grievance is that others are not making willing sacrifices. While there is talk of stabilizing wages, huge profits and bonuses are going into the pockets of industries and business executives. It's all right to put a limit on wages, they say, if you also put a limit on profits and bonuses and salaries. But workers claim that it is unfair to impose sacrifices upon them at a time when others are making abnormally high profits from war production, at a time when one reads of fabulous commissions paid for war contracts.

The Farm Bloc

While the inflation problem has centered largely upon wages during the last week or so, farm prices have also figured in the discussion. The farm bloc in Congress; that is, those senators and representatives from farm states, have opposed restrictions

upon the price of farm products. They succeeded in having farm prices excluded from the provisions of the price-fixing laws enacted a few months ago. As a result of this, the ceiling on certain canned goods was increased 15 per cent a few weeks ago. At that time, Mr. Henderson explained that the increase had to be authorized on account of rising farm prices.

Complicated Formula

The formula by which farm prices are determined at present is very complicated and need not be discussed at length in this article. Briefly stated, the principal objective of the farm program of the Roosevelt administration has been to bring farm prices in line with industrial prices—to reestablish the relationship which existed during the five years preceding the First World War. This relationship is called "parity."

Now the farm bloc has insisted that no ceiling be placed upon farm prices at less than 110 per cent of parity. In other words, while the general level of prices was fixed at those prevailing in March of this year and a ceiling imposed at that level, no such restriction was placed upon the price of farm products. They were to be permitted to rise 10 per cent above the "parity" level.

For months it has been argued by those who are concerned with preventing inflation that any effective curbs would have to include restraints upon farm prices as well as wage rates. It is impossible to keep prices in hand, it has been argued, so long as two of the most important elements in determining prices—wages and farm prices—are allowed to fluctuate. Sooner or later, the ceiling would be pierced, as in the case of canned goods, if all the elements of cost were not rigidly controlled. Because wages and farm prices were not so controlled, many economists have warned that the entire anti-inflation program of the government would fail.

The whole purpose of any anti-inflation policy, if it is to be successful, is to bring about a balance between the total income available for civilian goods and the amount of

goods available for purchase. The war has thrown the demand and the supply greatly out of balance. For one thing, the amount of money available for goods has greatly increased as a result of the tremendous war production. At the same time the amount of civilian goods is greatly curtailed. For example, in 1942, it is estimated that consumers will have \$86,000,000,000 to spend, whereas there will be only \$69,000,000,000 worth of goods available for purchase. This creates an inflationary gap of some \$17,000,000,000. Next year, the disparity is estimated at some \$30,000,000,000.

Despite the increased tax load (including the bill passed last week by the House of Representatives which adds more than \$6,000,000,000 to the nation's tax bill) and the increased sale of war bonds and stamps, the gap has not been closed. The excess purchasing power is not being drained off into savings and taxes. It is available for goods of one kind or another—goods which are growing scarcer and scarcer. This is creating a heavy pressure upon prices and the pressure is likely to blow off the price ceilings unless additional measures are adopted to reduce it.

It is because this pressure of excessive purchasing power is becoming so great that additional anti-inflation measures are deemed necessary in the near future. That is why there is an urgent demand for the immediate stabilization of wages and farm prices, for rises in either of these merely increase the pressure. That is why the new tax bill, heavy as it is, has been criticized. It is contended that the new taxes will not drain off sufficient purchasing power to reduce the inflationary pressure. That is why compulsory savings have been widely advocated, for the present rate of bond buying is not heavy enough to take care of the excess purchasing power.

The battle of inflation is reaching a critical stage. If the battle is won, the war effort can progress smoothly until final victory is in sight. If it is lost, the entire war effort of the nation will be placed in the greatest jeopardy.

Plea for Second Front Increases

(Concluded from page 1)

port an invading army to northern or northwestern Europe. It is generally agreed that only this type of craft, which does not sink very deeply into the water, could successfully enter the heavily mined waters along this part of the European coast.

At the present time, it is estimated that England has built enough barges to carry from one to two divisions (a division contains from about 15,000 to 18,000 troops). And yet an invading force of less than 25 or 30 divisions would have little hope of success, for the Germans are known to have that many troops in France.

Why, it is frequently asked, haven't the English built more barges? Why have they not made this necessary preparation for invasion? The answer is that they have been too busy making essential defense weapons—weapons which they had to have merely to save themselves from defeat. Until recently, they have had little time to think about offensive warfare. Instead, they have had to send all their spare equipment and all their surplus men to Africa, to the Far East, and to Russia in the effort to hold back the enemy. Today, they are building barges as fast as they can, but it will be some months before they have sufficient numbers of them to invade northern Europe.

Hitler's Failure

Those who would criticize the British for their lack of barges should also remember this fact. Hitler prepared a number of years for offensive warfare, and yet when he had France on her back, and had England practically unarmed, he was unable to follow through for the "kill," because he did not have enough barges. Few blunders or lack of foresight on the part of democratic leaders could ever match this folly of Hitler's.

But the dearth of barges is not the only obstacle to European invasion. In addition to maintaining about 400,000 men in France, the Nazis enjoy the further advantage of having most of the powerful guns and other equipment which the French yielded at the time of their defeat. The Germans have moved these guns near to the Channel coast, and these deadly weapons are ready to blast away at an invading army.

Not only do the English lack sufficient barges for a European invasion, but they and their American allies are also short on dive bombers. Such planes would be absolutely essential for clearing the path for an invading army, especially when the defending forces would most likely have superior ground equipment.

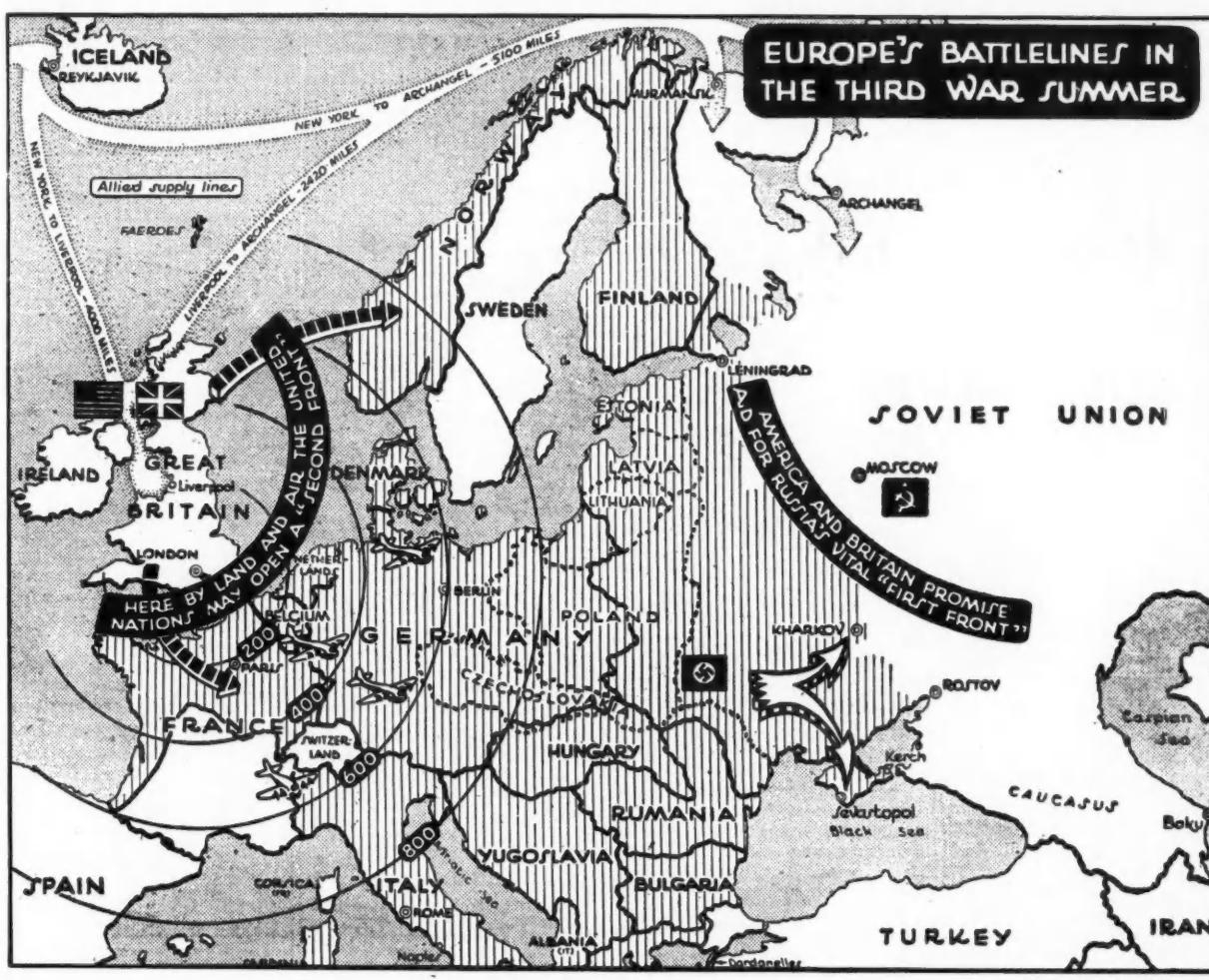
Why are the British short of dive bombers? For the same reason that they are short of barges. They have been preoccupied with the task of making defensive weapons. Why have we not sent more dive bombers to England? Because we were late in getting started, and because we, too, have had to concentrate a large part of our early efforts on defensive equipment—equipment which has had to be spread over

a large part of the earth's surface. But suppose that somehow or other we were able to land a large invading force in France. The next problem—and it would be of tremendous proportions—would be to keep this force supplied with new weapons, with additional manpower, with food and other needed supplies and materials. This job would require

taken within the next few months. Military leaders have not forgotten the valuable role of the Russian invasion of Germany from the east in the First World War. While Russia was decisively defeated in that campaign, her armies caused the Germans to divert about 250,000 men from their march on Paris, and it is widely felt that Russia's move turned

invasion of Europe, which might adversely affect them, than are American and British leaders. At the same time, we and the British are as anxious to launch a direct attack against the Germans, when the time is ripe, as the Russians are to have us do so.

Meanwhile, the New York Herald-Tribune gives some sound advice to



the services of a large fleet of merchant ships, together with vessels and aircraft to provide the necessary protection. This would mean that England and the United States would have to cut down materially on the supplies which they are now sending to Russia, to China, and to Africa, for there simply would not be enough ships to go around.

The next question is, therefore, would Russia be better off under such circumstances than she is now? Isn't there danger that the Germans might be able to take care of the new invading forces without diverting troops or weapons from the Russian front, thereby leaving the Russians with less outside aid than they have been receiving and with little or no benefit from the second front?

Russian Morale

That danger is entirely possible, and responsible Soviet leaders recognize it as clearly as do the British and American officials. Naturally, these leaders, whatever the true situation may be, must constantly dangle the hope of a second front before the eyes of the Russian people in order to keep up their courage and morale.

All this is not to say that there is no prospect of a European invasion this year, for no one, except those in the highest authority, are in a position to make such a prediction, and even they may quickly change their minds in the light of new developments. It may yet be decided that, despite the great obstacles in the way, an invasion should be under-

taken in the Battle of the Marne, thus saving Paris.

Hence, the decision may soon be made, or may already have been made, to launch an invasion attack against Europe at all costs. Or it may be decided to invade Norway, for if the United Nations could entrench themselves in that region, they could prevent Germany from making her devastating air and submarine attacks on ships headed for Russia over the northern route. This step alone would be of tremendous aid to Russia, for it would be much easier to get supplies to her.

It is generally felt that there is less likelihood of an attempted invasion of southern Europe than of the territory closer to England. The supply problem would be far greater than it would be in the case of the closer distances. The British have not forgotten the difficulties they encountered in supplying and reinforcing the troops which they sent to aid Greece.

All the questions and problems which have been discussed in this article, together with many more, were thoroughly ironed out in the recent talks engaged in by President Roosevelt, Premier Molotov of Russia (who made a secret trip here for the discussions), and high military officials of the two countries. From all reports, there is reason to believe that the leaders of both nations were in basic accord on most of the issues involved. The responsible Russian leaders, despite their statements for home consumption, are no more anxious for a premature, ill-prepared

the American public and to its leaders with respect to the question of invasion. Here is what it says:

It is absolutely imperative that our people, our commanders and our heads of government appreciate the extreme gravity of the situation. Public opinion cannot reasonably "demand" a second front or any other given move in a problem in which it is ignorant of all the relevant factors. It can demand imagination, unity of plan and a sense of urgency in those who must make the decisions. Though without knowledge of the details, it can see the broad outlines.

It is obvious that the collapse of Russia would be a catastrophe of appalling dimensions, perhaps irretrievable, and that there is almost no risk or loss which would not be worth taking if collapse could not otherwise be averted. It is equally obvious that the difficulties which Britain and America face are immense, and have been increased since Mr. Molotov's visit.

The public can also see that the case in Russia is not yet, fortunately, at the point of desperation. In the three weeks of their present drive the Germans, though sustaining enormous losses, have taken nothing like as much territory as they did in the same period last year or even in the first three weeks of their October drive on Moscow. If Russia has the reserves, the vital Volga line may yet be held; and it would be no more to Russia's interest than to our own or Britain's to risk a bloody and perhaps paralyzing failure by moving too soon in the west, unless it were absolutely necessary.

Somewhere between the extremity of Russia's need and the dangers of premature action from Britain there is a point of balance. The greater the need, the greater the risks we must take. Whether the balance indicates only mass bombings, or requires large-scale commando-type raids or demands an attempt at an established front is a question which only military knowledge can answer.

But the balance must be found; it must be found in the fullest unity of planning with Russia; and whatever action it demands must be promptly and unhesitatingly taken.

News and Comment

Time Lag

"Why isn't that new airplane in action?" is a question asked on every hand when the introduction of a new model is not quickly followed by a story of its military exploits. Recently a writer for the *Wall Street Journal* gave some of the reasons. He wrote:

It wouldn't do, for example, to put the best pilots in the world into action in a new airplane until each is thoroughly familiar with the ship under every condition. Suppose the pilot should "black out" momentarily in a fight. For a brief period he would be blind. His life and the airplane would depend upon his ability to reach instinctively for the proper controls without the slightest hesitation.

At the same time, the pilots must be trained to work together as a team which operates by instinct in the particular tactics for which the airplane was designed.

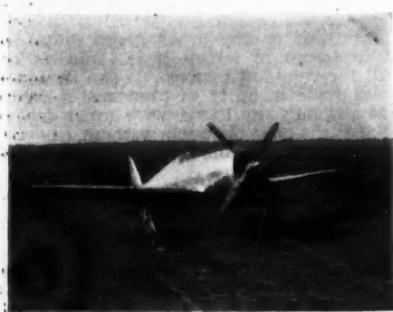
The training doesn't stop with the pilots. Down on the ground is the repair and supply service. You can't run a repair base along the same lines as the street corner garage where the mechanics are handy men able to do a fair job on most any kind of car that comes in. The repair crews have to be specialists, can't waste time hemming and hawing as to what might be wrong with the ship. Just like the infantryman trained to take down his rifle blindfolded, the ground crews must know every nook and cranny of the airplane.

This means that the supply base becomes almost a field factory equipped to do almost any job done on the assembly line in the factory itself. Adequate supplies of spare parts must be built up so that repairs can be made in a hurry...

Finally, there comes the question of numbers. The value of a new ship lies largely in its ability to deliver its first punch in such overwhelming fashion as to disorganize the enemy and then to keep on slugging on a scale which prevents the enemy from effective reorganization.

That takes a lot of airplanes held in reserve on the ground. Some of the airplanes will be shot down in action and lost. Those must be replaced immediately....

Consequently, so long as there are



U.S. ARMY AIR CORPS

NEW MODELS of military planes cannot appear on the fighting fronts as soon as the first ones roll off the production line. Above is the new U.S. Republic P-47 Thunderbolt which has yet to show its fighting power.

other airplanes there which are able to hang on, throwing a new airplane into action the moment the first production models begin to come out without waiting for adequate numbers and proper training really defeats the purpose of the new ship.

German Tactics

German forces in the North African warfare have to their credit a number of successful campaigns which might almost seem to have been accomplished by some sort of military magic. Awesome though the Nazi tank attacks have been, however, Harold Denny, a New York Times correspondent who has seen them, says that they can be met and beaten. The German tactics, he wrote in the *Times Magazine* last

week, are taken largely from the cavalry manual, with the tank simply replacing the horse.

Naturally there is masterly generalship, and the forces move into action with as powerful and smooth-running teamwork as one might hope to see. But Denny is convinced that American forces can excel Nazi technique, which he describes as follows:

When a German general is ordered to conduct an operation he is asked what forces he needs, on the ground, in the air and, in some instances, on the sea. If possible, these forces—so many armored divisions, so many infantry divisions, so many squadrons of the appropriate types of aircraft, so many naval units—are assigned to him and are under his direct and exclusive command for the period of that operation.

In the field, then, in the midst of battle, the German general can, instantly and directly, order airplane support or the shelling of a fort or a road or a troop concentration by naval vessels. There are no delays caused by sending requests up and down two chains of command. And when battles are moving at 20 miles an hour in the swirling inferno of mechanized warfare, minutes count as hours did in the previous war.

The Germans increase the effectiveness of this system by extremely fast radio communication, instantaneously linking armored vehicles, infantry units, airplanes and warships. In battle, messages are sent by voice "in the clear" to save critical minutes which would be lost in coding and decoding. And in battle the generals no longer do their fighting on a map in a comfortable chateau. They go into the thick of it and give their orders by radio.

Typewriters for War

Twenty-five thousand large businesses were recently asked to sell the government all the typewriters they can spare—300,000 of models later than 1935 in all. But the Army, Navy, and other key war branches need still another 300,000. The Office of War Information, in asking small businesses, schools, and individuals to sell their machines to the government, reports:

Typewriters played a stellar role in the epic of Bataan. They were in there, tapping, when the last flag was struck on Corregidor. They recorded every order, leading to the Navy's great success in the Battle of Midway, documented the progress of the fighting. Amid the fogs of the Aleutians and under the searing sun of Libya they are recording every command, every radio message, every telephone report 24 hours of every day.

But typewriter plants have gone to war, too, and the factories which once turned out over 800,000 typewriters per year now busy themselves with rifles and carbines, fuses and ammunition and projectiles. By the end of this year, with Army and Navy typewriter requirements growing day by day, typewriter manufacture will have entirely stopped.

Even with the prospect of obtaining 600,000 typewriters in this new appeal, the OWI states, the Navy has had to cut its typewriter use in half, and the Army's allotment of machines is 60 per cent below normal.

Owners of models made since 1935 can sell them to dealers who have been named as government agents. The price paid will be the factory trade-in allowance for the model which prevailed on February 1, 1941. In the presence of the seller, as an assurance that his machine will not find its way back into ordinary trade channels, a "Property of U. S. Government" label will be firmly attached.



IN NORTHERN IRELAND and in England, U. S. troops are preparing for the day when, under the leadership of General Eisenhower, they will invade the continent of Europe.

Candidate for Fame

Gen. Eisenhower of the U. S. Army

WHAT may turn out to be the biggest job in military history belongs to Lieutenant General Dwight D. Eisenhower, who is in command of all United States forces in the European theater of war. At his call are the growing American forces stationed in Britain, waiting the decision that will determine when and where a second front against the Axis will be opened on the continent.

When the hour strikes, General Eisenhower may be in the top command of all the United Nations' forces involved, or he may only be in charge of U. S. troops, with someone else holding the unified supreme command. He is certain, in any event, to be among the few men responsible for selecting the weak spot on the continent, and for massing the air, sea, and land forces which will drive in an opening wedge, widen it into a front, and push back the enemy.

Less than a year ago the nation had a preview of the general's talents for this kind of task. In the summer of 1941, while he was yet a colonel, Eisenhower was chief of staff for the army which "won" the largest peacetime war games ever staged in United States history. Fellow officers then and there marked "Ike" Eisenhower for rapid advancement. They readily admitted that he had shown himself to be one of the Army's most brilliant strategists, and it was scarcely any surprise to them this year when he moved from the vital operations division of the general staff to the European command.

The story of Eisenhower's military career reads, in part, like that of many other officers—West Point, careful study of military tactics and history, and attendance at the Army's various "graduate" schools. The general, in addition, took thorough advantage of the early opportunities which came his way to learn about those twin weapons of modern warfare—the tank and the airplane.

It was during the First World War, when he was just out of West Point, that Eisenhower became interested in tanks. The small, crude tanks of those days bore little resemblance to the 20- and 30-ton monsters of the present war. But the young lieutenant apparently saw some possibilities in them, and for his zeal in mastering their operations he was rewarded with the command of a tank corps training center. Not only did he re-

main a tank enthusiast in later years, but he still qualifies as an expert at using them.

Eisenhower's first-hand experience with aviation came much later—when he was General MacArthur's right-hand man in building up Philippine defenses during the 1930's. Traveling about the islands required him to fly a good deal, with the consequence that he learned to be a pilot himself. In the course of piling up 300 hours in the air, he won the instructors' admiration for being a "natural" at flying.

Flying took such a hold on him that he later told a friend, "There's exultation being up there in the blue all by yourself. No muddy roads, no detours, no signs. If you want to take a look at something, you dive down and look at it. If you don't like it, you soar up and find something else. You can do anything you like."

Men who deal with General Eisenhower find him a friendly, straight-thinking and straight-talking officer. When he was about to leave the Philippines, for example, he was given a dinner by President Quezon, who said: "Among all his outstanding qualities, the quality I regard most highly is this: Whenever I asked Ike for an opinion, I got an answer. It may not have been what I wanted to hear. It may have displeased me. But it was always straightforward, an honest answer. There's no dilly-dallying about Ike."

Texas-born and Kansas-reared, Eisenhower, now 51, is one of six brothers. He was all set to go to Annapolis, but failed to meet the age requirements and entered West Point instead. A broken leg suffered in an Army football game kept him on the sideline in athletics. Although not brilliant, his scholastic record was steadily good, and he graduated in the upper third of his class. Today his son is a student at the academy, and a number of his nephews want to go there, too, just like Uncle "Ike" did. The general is, understandably enough, their idol.